

EDITORIAL

Five trees, I once learnt, make an orchard. There is no similar arbitrary rule for how many issues are needed to root a journal firmly, but with its third issue I hope that *Syllogos* is on its way to becoming established as a destination for students of Herodotus at all levels. (Statistics for downloads confirm it.)

This third issue contains four substantial articles: a discussion (my own) of ‘patterns of prefiguration’ across the *Histories*, explored through the prism of the well-known story of the suitors for Agariste; a compelling treatment of the intertextual strategy employed by the Herodotean narrator, focussing on the relationship between the Greek embassy to Gelon and the Achaean embassy to Achilles in *Iliad* 9; a new contribution to, surely, the thorniest theological and linguistic issue that Herodotus presents (what he means by ‘the names [and eponyms] of the gods’); and, finally, a rich new treatment of the Achaemenid ideological background to the *Histories*, one that initiates the first thread of articles in *Syllogos*, picking up as it does themes explored by Sam Blankenship in our inaugural issue. Multiple reviews of two new books – Bryant Kirkland’s discussion of Herodotus’ reception in imperial Greek literature, and a collection of essays on the Cambyses *logos* – continue to embody the journal’s ambition to honour a plurality of voices.

Four substantial articles ... three of the four indeed are very substantial (including my own). It might be a good moment to remind contributors that we not only welcome contributions on any aspect of the *Histories*, Herodotus’ world, and their reception in later centuries, but also contributions of any length! I look forward to our first short note. Next year’s issue will also include two more winning entries in the Doris Post Essay Prize (by Vittorio Cisnetti and Nazım Can Serbest) but also at least two scholarly ‘round-ups’ on central themes in the *Histories*. One of our past ‘round-ups’, by Typhaine Haziza on Herodotus’ Egypt, had its origins in a question from a Herodotus Helpline member to the ‘Ask the Helpline’ feature. That website (www.herodotushelpline.org) is in many respects the sibling of this journal. Readers are encouraged to search out the many other rich answers to questions from members of the public which are archived there.

Thomas Harrison